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Kentucky's New State Capital

Prepared by George A. Harris, Custodian



THE STATE CAPITOL—NORTH FRONT

Kentucky's New State Capitol



Prepared by George A. Lewis, Custodian

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THE STATE CAPITOL—WEST FRONT

Amount of Appropriations

THE following amounts have been appropriated for the new Capitol by the various Legislatures :

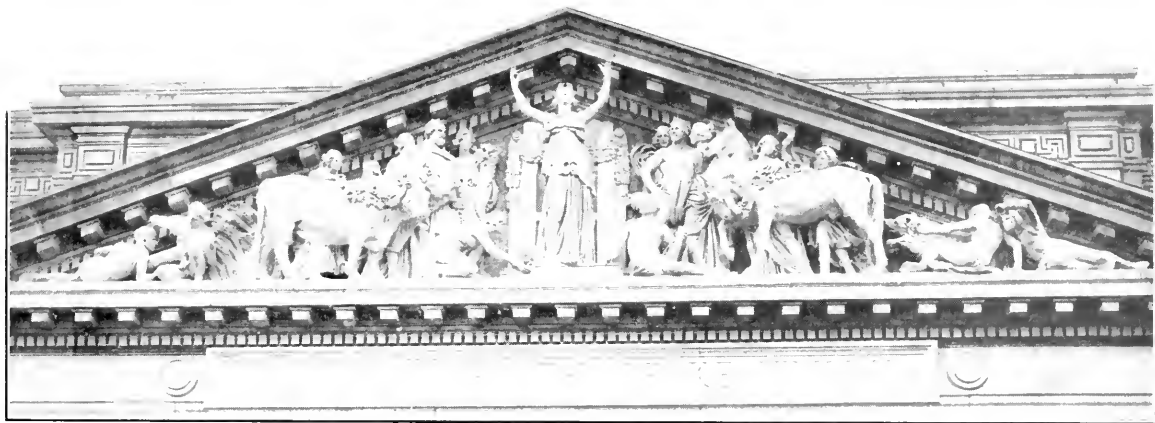
1904.	For the erection of the new building	\$1,000,000
1905.	To purchase a new location	40,000
1905.	Special appropriation for additional ground	20,000
1906.	To cover cost of change in interior finish	250,000
1906.	To enrich Pediment	40,000
1908.	To carry on work and furnish building	460,000
1910.	To complete landscaping of grounds	50,000
		- - -
	Total	\$1,860,000

Cost of the Capitol

Amount expended for building	\$1,180,434.80
Amount expended for grounds	63,793.00
Amount expended for furniture, carpets, marble floors, mural paintings, etc.	141,881.00
Amount expended for metal file cases, vaults, etc.	45,188.00
Amount expended for power plant	90,000.00
Amount expended for enrichment of Pediment	40,000.00
Amount expended for heating, lighting and electrical fixtures	108,703.20
Amount expended for terrace and landscaping	190,000.00
Total amount expended	<u>\$1,860,000.00</u>

Of this amount there remained unexpended April 1, 1910, \$59,992.98.

The fees of the architect, Frank M. Andrews--amounting to \$66,786.46--are included in the above figures.



THE PEDIMENT

Dimensions of State House

Total length of Building, from east to west	.....403 feet
Depth of central part of Building, through the vestibule	....186 feet
Diameter of Rotunda	...57 feet
Height of Building from terrace floor to top of parapet wall	80 feet
Height of Dome from terrace floor to top of lantern	212 feet
Width of Architectural Terrace, at the front and rear of the wings of the building and at the east end	30 feet
Width of Architectural Terrace at the west end and rear of central pavilion	40 feet
Length of Pediment from east to west	74 feet
Height of Pediment from base line to apex	25 feet

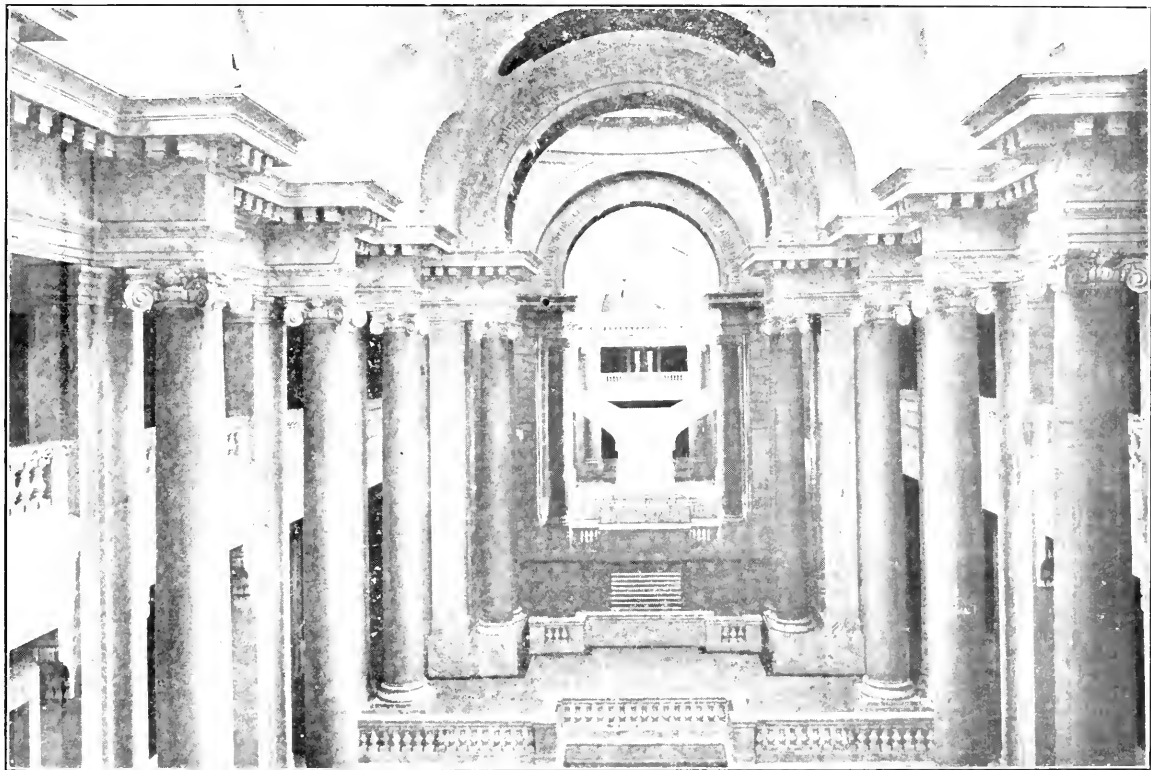
The New State House

WHEN the Legislature of 1904 met the State of Kentucky was practically out of debt, and a bill appropriating \$1,000,000 for the purpose of erecting a new State Capitol passed that body with but one dissenting vote, and a commission to carry out the provisions of the act was appointed, consisting of the following:

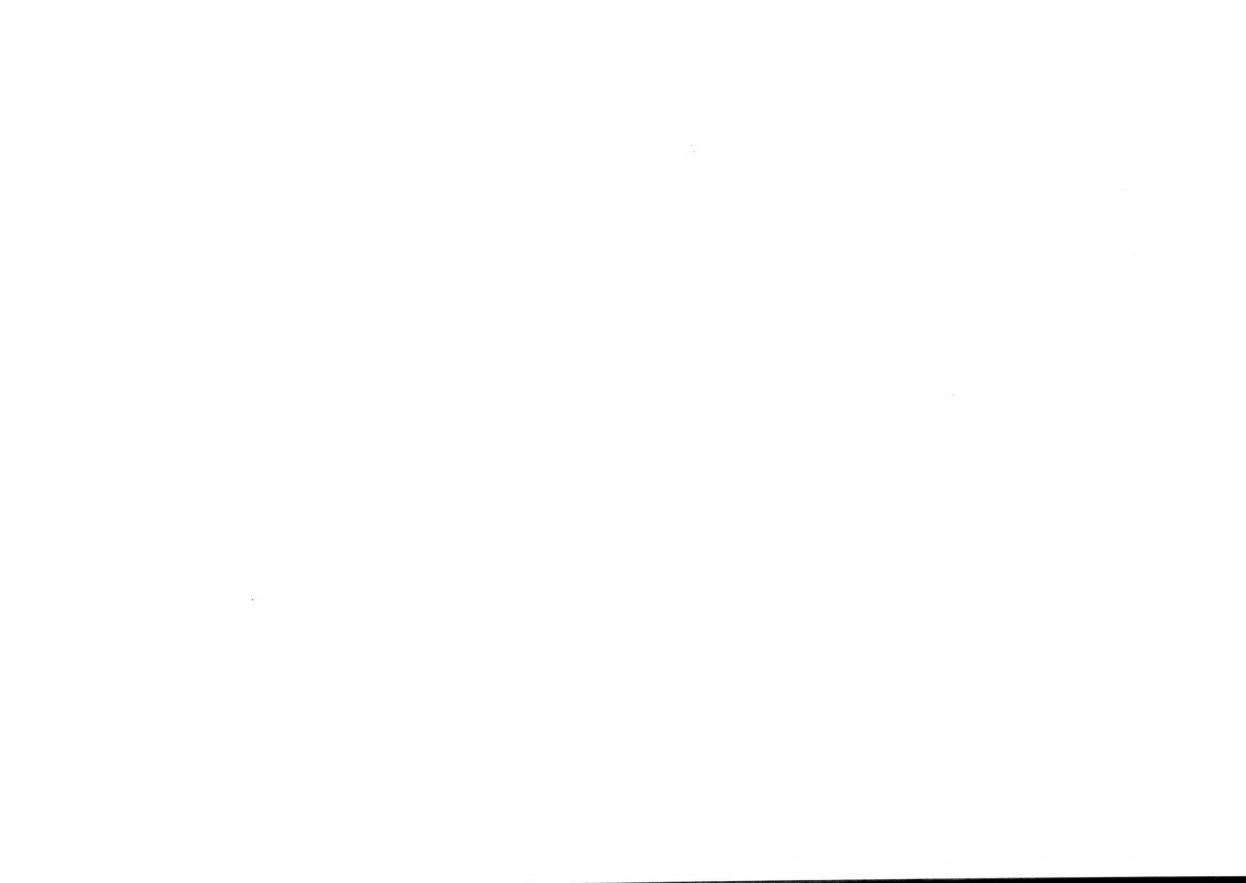
J. C. W. BECKHAM,	.	.	.	.	Governor
H. V. McCHESNEY,	.	.	.	.	Secretary of State
S. W. HAGER,	.	.	.	.	State Auditor
N. B. HAYS,	.	.	.	.	Attorney General
H. M. BOSWORTH,	.	.	.	.	State Treasurer

Henry B. Ware was made Secretary to the Board.

It was provided by the act above referred to that the new building was to be erected upon the site of the old, but when the Architect, Frank M. Andrews, of Dayton, Ohio, presented his plans it was found that the old location was not suitable for the proposed structure, and a special session of the Legislature was called to meet in January, 1905, to consider the matter. The result was that the location was changed to the south side of Frankfort, \$40,000 appropriated for the purchase of grounds and the farm known as the "Hunt Place," containing thirty-three acres, secured for the purpose.



THE MAIN CORRIDOR



A contract for the erection of the building was let to the General Supply and Construction Company of New York, and on the 14th of August, 1905, the ground was broken for the foundation, and on the 16th of June, 1906, the corner stone was laid. The work progressed rapidly, but was scarcely under roof when, on the 1st of January, 1908, there was a change of administration, and the following Commissioners took charge of affairs:

AUGUSTUS E. WILLSON,	.	.	.	Governor
BEN L. BRUNER,	.	.	.	Secretary of State
FRANK P. JAMES,	.	.	.	State Auditor
JAMES BREATHITT,	.	.	.	Attorney General
EDWIN FARLEY,	.	.	.	State Treasurer

Capt. Edward M. Drane was made Secretary.

Under this new management the work was not permitted to lag, contracts for the completion and furnishing of the building were let, and on the 26th of July, 1909, Dr. Ben L. Bruner, Secretary of State, moved into and formally occupied his apartments in the northwest portion of the building. The other State officials soon followed, and by the 1st of December every department was comfortably located in new quarters, and on the Tuesday after the first Monday in January, 1910, the first session of the Kentucky Legislature to be held in the new Capitol was opened.

The building is one of the handsomest, if not the most handsome, in the United States,

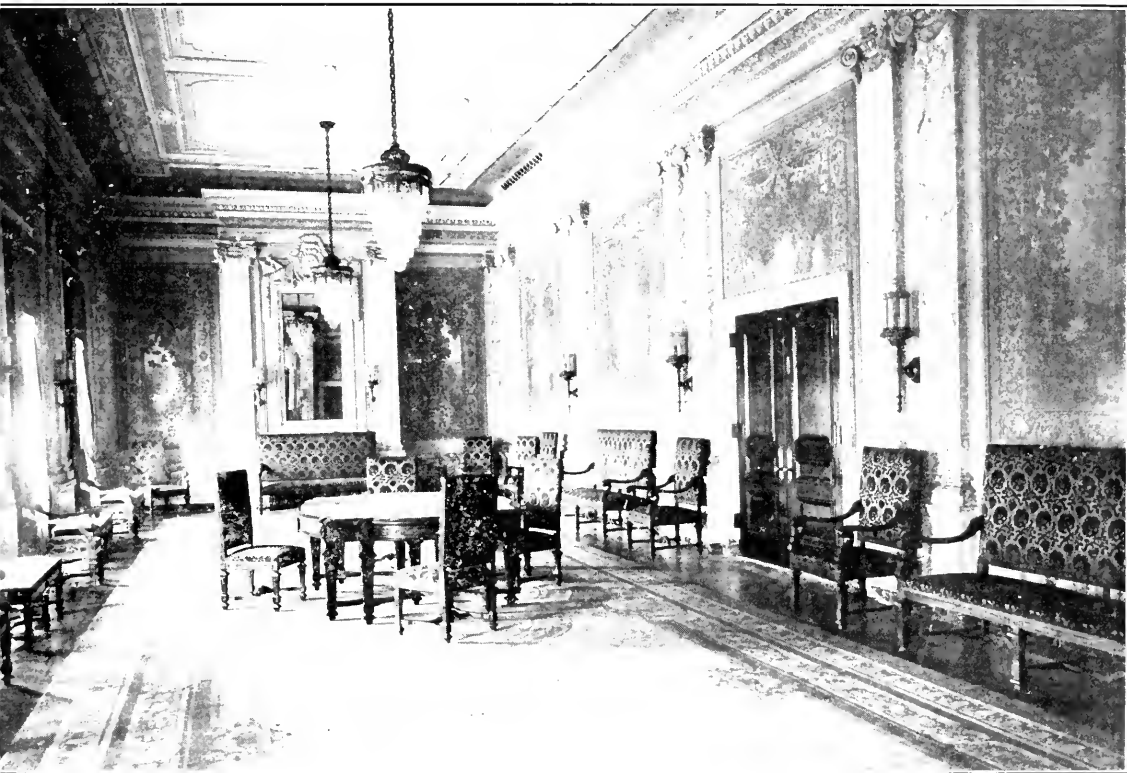
contains two hundred and seventy-four rooms and apartments, and is something of which every Kentuckian can be proud.

The Exterior

THE face-work of the building is constructed of oolitic limestone, from Bedford, Indiana, with a Vermont granite base, and rests upon a concrete foundation as solid as the everlasting hills. It is surrounded by an architectural stone terrace, with concrete floor covered with vitrified brick. The outer walls of the building are ornamented with seventy Ionic columns--thirty-two on the front, four on either end and thirty on the back. All of them are monoliths, twenty-seven feet ten inches tall and weigh about eighteen tons each.

The Pediment

OVER the north entrance is richly sculptured, and adds greatly to the appearance of the building. The heroic figure in the centre represents Kentucky, standing in front of a chair of state. Her immediate attendants are Progress, who is seen kneeling at her feet, pushing a winged wheel; History, on the right, is recording the events of the richly peopled past; Plenty stands in the left background with a cornucopia overflowing with fruit and grain. Art is represented on the right by a female figure with palette and brush in her hand; Labor, in the rear facing Art, by a male figure stripped to the waist and grasping a hammer. An agri-



THE STATE RECEPTION ROOM

cultural aspect is introduced by groups of cattle and horses, with male and female figures wreathing the picture creatures as in festal array. The idea of the statue is portrayed in the two ends of the Pediment by its grouping, and its indivisibility and stability are shown in the State seal, which is indicated at the left end by a group of two figures tying fascets, signifying strength and unity. At the other end is an Indian group of two figures, suggestive of pioneer days, crouching with fear and watching the approach of civilization.

The Pediment was designed by Chas. Henry Niehaus, of New York, who had the contract, and received \$40,000 for its execution. He employed an Austrian sculptor by the name of Peter Rossak to do the work.

The Entrance

THERE are three entrances to the building, one facing the east and one at the west, while the principal doors face the north. In approaching these latter from the city it is necessary to ascend a flight of twenty-four steps, in rests of eight steps each, to reach the terrace floor. The steps are of Georgia granite and the terrace floor is of concrete covered with vitrified brick (the reasons for the latter being that it is a more secure footing in winter and does not reflect light and heat in summer), while the three steps from the terrace to the doors are of granite. At the east entrance the terrace is reached by a few steps from the driveway, but at the west entrance there are two flights of twenty-one steps of granite each—one ascending from the north and the other from the south. The outer vestibules are of Bedford limestone, but the interior walls are of

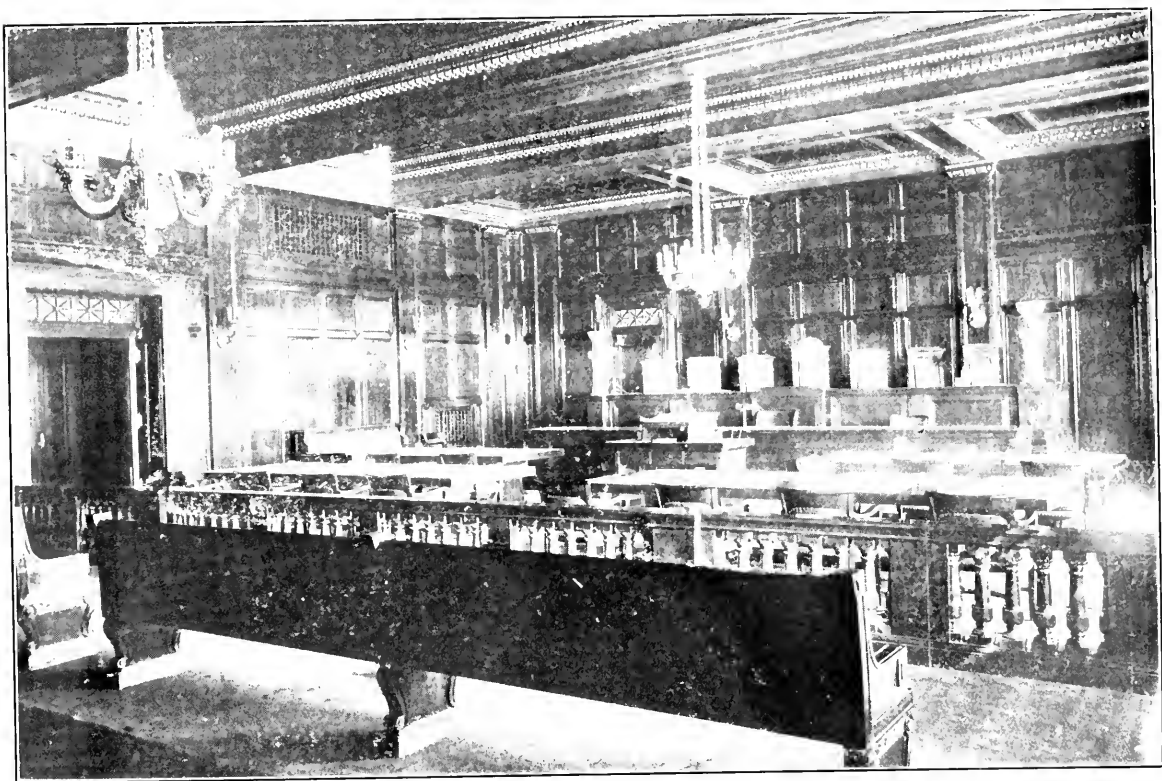
Georgia and the floors of Tennessee marble. On either side of the north entrance to the rotunda there is a bronze tablet--the one on the west bearing the names of the Commissioners who had charge of the earlier stages of the erection of the building, and the one on the east bearing the names of the Commissioners who completed it.

The Dome

AS A close copy of the dome of the Hotel des Invalides, in Paris, France, and in the centre of the rotunda is a circle representing the position of the red Finnish marble sarcophagus containing the ashes of the great Napoleon. The floor of the rotunda is composed of several kinds of marble--Light Italio, blue and pink Tennessee and Verde Antique--while the walls are of Georgia marble. Upon the top of the dome there is a lantern containing four large 5,000 candle-power arc lights, while the interior of the dome is lighted by 800 incandescent bulbs--120 in the eye, 120 reflected lights at the head of the pilasters, 120 upon the walls of the balcony, a line of 320 around the cornice and 120 in the pendants on the walls at the second floor. When all are burning the effect is magnificent.

The Corridors, Stairways and Niche

FOR elegance of finish these features are surpassed by no State Capitol and are equalled by a few. The floors of the corridors are of Tennessee marble, trimmed with Verde Antique



CHAMBER OF COURT OF APPEALS

and Light Italo marble, the wainscoting and pilasters are of Georgia marble, while the walls are covered with canvass, painted burnt orange, and the stairways are of Georgia marble. The nave is beautiful indeed, being generous in length and breadth, and is ornamented with thirty-six magnificent monolithic columns of Vermont granite, supporting massive cornices.

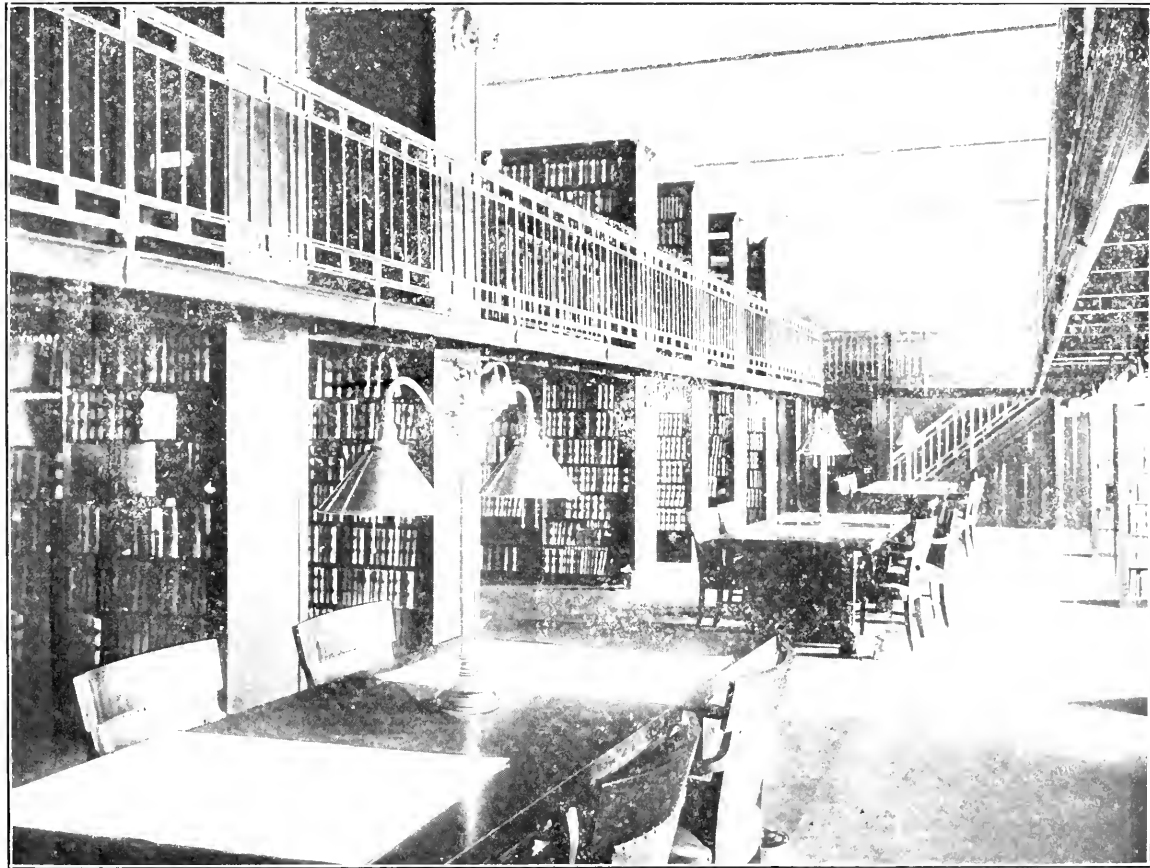
Mural Paintings

THE lunettes of the nave are ornamented with handsome oil paintings, which are exceedingly interesting, and treat of early events in the history of Kentucky. The subject of that in the east wing is "Boone and Companions taking their First View of the Kentucky Valley"--an event which transpired from the top of Pilot Knob, at the mouth of Red river, in Powell county, but the artist has placed the figures in front of the Boone monument in the Frankfort cemetery, and has them looking towards the new State Capitol, giving it a local color pleasing to the residents of the Capital city.

The picture in the west lunette tells the story of the "Treaty of Wataga," which was concluded near Fort Wataga, Tennessee, in 1775. By its terms the Overhill Tribe of the Cherokee Indians, through their chief Ocon-os-to-to, or Dragging Canoe, sold to Daniel Boone for the Transylvania Land Company, the lands that they claimed in Kentucky for £10,000, or about \$50,000. The Indians claimed the territory extending from the Cumberland river on the west to the Cumberland mountains and Kentucky river on the east, and from

the Ohio river south. The Transylvania (Beyond the Forest) Land Company was a corporation composed of North Carolina capitalists, headed by Judge, or Colonel, Richard Henderson, who proposed to exploit the lands in Kentucky. After the treaty was concluded Ocon-os-to-to told the white men that they had purchased an exceedingly beautiful country, but it was a Dark and Bloody Ground, and they would have trouble in maintaining it--the origin of the term "Dark and Bloody Ground," as applied to Kentucky. As the Cherokees were a Southern tribe, whose home was in Alabama and Georgia, which had been endeavoring for years to hold the territory against the Shawnees, Miamis and Mingos, of the North, it is supposed that he spoke from ample experience.

Colonel, or Judge, Henderson called a meeting of the "Proprietors of the Transylvania District," as the Land Company was called, at Boonesborough, and that organization established a code of nine laws for the government of the territory, which soon became onerous to the settlers, and they appealed to the Virginia Legislature for relief. The Legislature refused to recognize the sale by the Indians to Henderson and his associates, claiming that this territory was previously ceded to the English Crown by the Six Nations, and was included in the charter granted to the colony of Virginia; but rather than deprive the Transylvania people of any benefit they might derive from the money they had paid the Cherokees, the Legislature gave to them 200,000 acres of land--what is known in Western Kentucky as the "Henderson grant," beginning at the mouth of Green river, following its meanders up stream for twenty miles and extending eight miles east and west from the river. Colonel, or Judge, Henderson afterwards settled upon part of this grant, and it was in his honor that the city and county of



Henderson were named. His relations still reside there, and to-day are among the most prominent citizens of that section.

These pictures were executed by Gilbert White, of New York, at an expense to the State of \$7,000.

The Offices

UPON the first floor are located file rooms and the offices of the Departments of Agriculture, Insurance, Land, Board of Control, Education, Adjutant General, Railroad and Prison Commissioners and Custodian, as well as the rooms of the Historical Society and Ladies' Reception. All these apartments, except Education (which is finished in mahogany), are finished in oak and furnished with the same.

On the second floor are the executive offices, viz: Governor's, Secretary of State, Auditor, Attorney General and Treasurer, the walls of all of which are hung with velvet and handsomely furnished in mahogany. On this floor are also the office of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, the Court Room, Board Room, Law Library, Judge's Consultation and private chambers and State Reception Room.

The third story is devoted mainly to the halls of legislation, cloak, committee and retiring rooms, though the Miscellaneous Library, State Inspector and Examiner and Superintendent of Public Printing have quarters upon this floor.

State Reception Room

THIS is one of the most beautiful apartments in the building, the design being of the Louis XIV period, and resembles very much the Throne Room in Charlottenberg Palace near Berlin. It is handsomely furnished with hand-carved Circassian Walnut, the walls are decorated with hand-painted cartoons of the Gobelin Tapestry and the hard-wood floor covered with a rug of the French Ellane quality, manufactured especially for the purpose. This room represents an expense of \$9,300--the furniture and window hangings costing \$5,000, the wall decorations \$2,500 and the carpet \$1,800. This latter was woven at Desseldorf, Austria, the work requiring four months' time, and it is so very heavy that the loom was broken three times. It is sixteen by fifty-four feet and weighs 1,027 pounds, is said to be the largest specially designed rug ever woven, and the most splendid specimen of the Louis XIV period extant in the United States.

In its manufacture it was necessary to cut by hand sixty-four knots to the square inch of its surface, and as it covers something like 125,000 square inches, an idea can be formed of the tedious nature of the work.

The furniture was manufactured in this country, the carving being executed by foreign workmen, however, some of them still wearing the wooden shoe of Germany. The brocade velvet with which it is upholstered was manufactured at the Convent of St. Cloud, France, and cost the contractor \$13.50 per yard. The handsome center table, which attracts so much attention, as an individual cost \$1,100--its top of Breche Violette, an Italian marble, having been



SENATE CHAMBER



HALL OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

selected to harmonize with the wall trimmings, which are Scagliola, made in imitation of the Italian Paonazzo marble.

Court Room

THE chamber of the Court of Appeals is indeed handsome, perhaps more so than any other court room in the United States. The walls are paneled in solid Honduras mahogany, the ceiling is Dutch metal leaf laquered to represent "old bronze," paneled, with egg and dart mould effect, and the furniture of mahogany, upholstered in olive green leather. The light fixtures are of brush brass, satin finish, and are exceedingly beautiful. This room represents an expense of something like \$12,000.

Legislative Halls

THE chambers of the Senate and House of Representatives are both finished with Scagliola, the former in imitation of the Sienna and the latter the Numidian marble. The furniture is mahogany of the richest and most substantial character, leather upholstering, and the retiring and reception rooms are equally as comfortably and luxuriously fitted up. Each member is supplied with a roll-top mahogany desk, with individual electric light, and call button for the purpose of summoning a page.

Basement and Fourth Floor

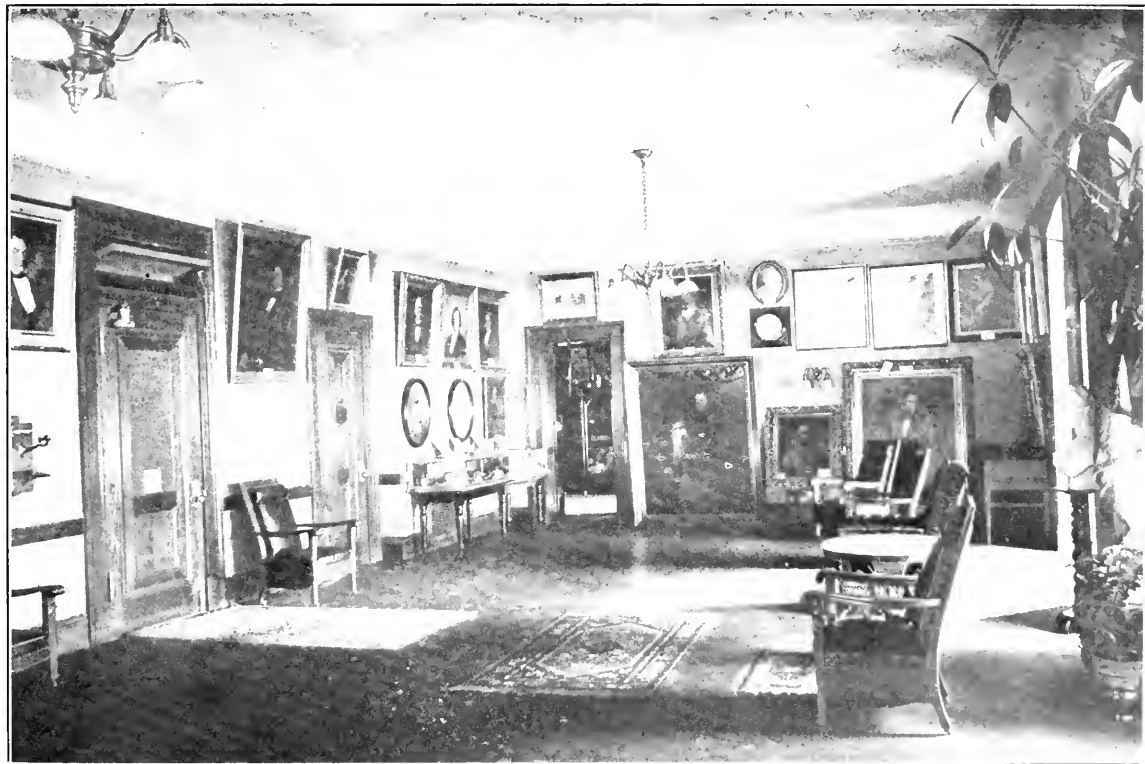
IN THE basement and upon the fourth or gallery floor there are numerous file and storage rooms, where the old books and papers can be safely deposited for a hundred years to come. Upon these floors have been placed the heating and ventilating machinery, and the appliances for washing the air before it is forced into the building.

Power House

FROM which the heat, light and water supply is obtained, is located below the brow of the hill at the eastern edge of the grounds, upon the line of the Lawrenceburg turnpike, on the Kentucky river, and is connected with the building by a tunnel six and a half by five by nine hundred feet. It is supplied with the latest and most improved machinery for furnishing light and heat and appliances for pumping, refrigerating and filtering water, and for vacuum cleaning. This plant cost \$90,000.

Historical Rooms

AT THE south-west angle of the first floor are located the apartments of the Historical Society, where are displayed the portraits of all but seven Governors of the State as well as



THE HISTORICAL ROOMS

of Boone, Kenton and other distinguished Kentuckians, articles of historical interest, old manuscripts, etc. Here hours can be profitably spent, in comfort and with pleasure.

File Room of Secretary of State

AT THE north-west angle of the building is located on the first floor a room in which much can be learned of the early history of Kentucky, for here are on file the executive papers of every Governor, from Isaac Shelby to Gov. Willson, the bound volumes of the enrolled bills passed by the Legislatures from that of 1792 down to date, the executive journals of every Governor from the first to the present, and such historic documents as the resolutions of '98. It is alone interesting to see the signatures of the earlier Governors and the splendid penmanship of the days of quill pens and handmade paper.

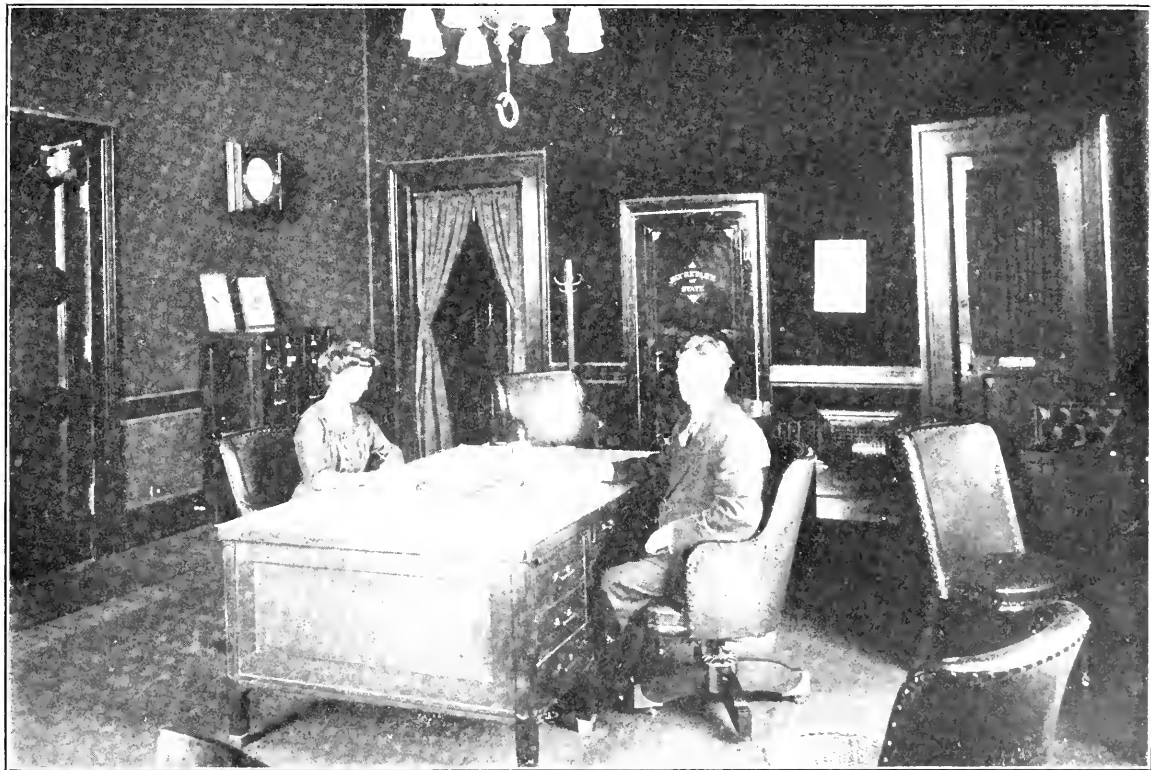
Top of the Dome

TO REACH the lantern on top of the dome is rather a dangerous task. The elevator is taken to the fourth floor, a flight of steps carries you to the square of the dome, where you enter a shaft five feet in diameter and wind around a spiral flight of seventy-eight steps, next ascend straight up a ladder of fifty rungs, and then crawl through a small opening in the floor of the lantern. The view is splendid, but the height too dizzy for the average person.

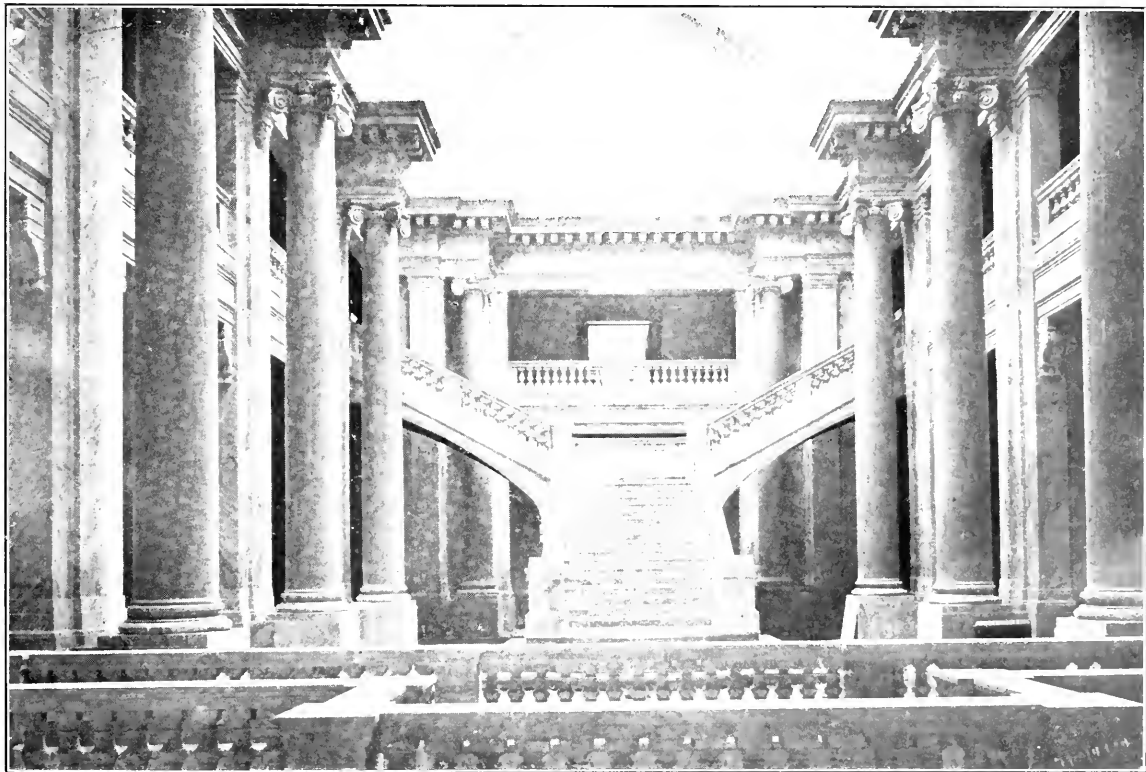
Finally

WHEN you have seen the very many beautiful features of Kentucky's new Capitol you will be ready to exclaim with the hosts who have preceded you, "The half has not been told."





PRIVATE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE—FIRST APARTMENT OCCUPIED IN THE BUILDING.



THE EAST END OF CORRIDOR

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